



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

October 20, 1927.

ELK REFUGE LANDS DEEDED
BY IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

In the receipt by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture of a deed to lands purchased by the Izaak Walton League of America and presented to the United States for enlarging the Winter Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the final chapter is written of a public-spirited act of far-reaching importance.

This was the comment made by Paul G. Redington, chief of the Biological Survey, in recording by letter to Charles W. Folds, chairman of the executive committee of the Izaak Walton League of America, the appreciation of the Survey. Mr. Redington commended the foresight of the Waltonians in buying these refuge lands and their generosity in donating them to the Federal Government to be used in connection with the feeding of the elk as one of the most outstanding and progressive achievements of their League.

The lands have been much needed by the Biological Survey for feeding grounds for the Southern Yellowstone elk in winter, and the movement to purchase them was launched by the League about three years ago. Last year the National Congress formally accepted the gift. The lands deeded by the League are in Teton County, Wyoming, and will be known as the Izaak Walton League Addition to the Winter Elk Refuge.

Mr. Redington stated that the officers of the League deserve the plaudits of all those who have wild life conservation at heart. The story is very generally known of the threatened extinction of the herds of elk by starvation of hundreds and thousands in recurring hard winters. This movement for the preservation of these magnificent animals while it is still possible becomes a gift not only for the elk but for hunters and nature lovers also. Under proper administration of the enlarged refuge and its valuable wild life, there will be increased opportunity in the surrounding region for big-game hunting, as the surplus animals from the herds will become legitimate game of sportsmen, and at the same time the herds will be better assured of perpetuation for the delight of future generations. The funds raised by the Izaak Walton League by popular subscription and used for the purchase of the 1,760 acres of refuge land totalled \$36,500.